

Celebration of Worship

July 23, 2023

9:30 A.M.

Prelude

*We are followers of Jesus Christ, living and sharing
the love of God through faith and action, welcoming all.*

Welcome, Announcements and Ringing of the Bell

Preparing for God's Word

Personal Preparation for Worship

(Adapted from a prayer by Samuel Miller)

Almighty God, underneath the casual surface of our lives, great questions and mighty hungers trouble our days with flickering shadows of mystery. Touch us, great shepherd of our souls, even at our deepest, highest level, and be present with us wherever we stand in awe of life and death. Gatekeeper of life, leave us not bereft of wonder and the wisdom that has sight of things eternal making miracles in the common day. Restore our souls to their true magnitude and furnish our minds with the daring of faith and the humility of love, through Christ who came that we might have life abundantly. Amen.

Gathering Song

Surely the Presence of the Lord Is in This Place

Surely the presence of the Lord is in this place;
I can feel His mighty power and His grace.
I can hear the brush of angel's wings; I see glory on each face.
Surely the presence of the Lord is in this place.

Responsive Call to Worship

Pastor: For God alone my soul waits in silence,

People: for my hope is from God.

Pastor: God alone is my rock and my salvation, my fortress;

People: I shall not be shaken.

Pastor: Once God has spoken, twice have I heard this: power belongs to God,

People: and steadfast love belongs to you, O Lord.

All: Let us Worship God!

*Hymn of Praise

Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise

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*Prayer of Adoration

Prayer of Confession

Our Lord and our God, we praise You for Your love as it has been revealed in Jesus Christ, and we worship You in the confidence that You are more ready to listen than we are to speak. In Your presence we become aware of elements in our lives that are not always apparent to us: the desire to be right in every exchange, the pride that always needs to be first, the prejudice that postures as openness. Forgive us for these assertions of self that reflect our fears. Guide us now to the light that puts all things in perspective, to the truth against which all things are measured, and to the power which heals and makes all things new. For it is in Jesus Christ that we pray and to Christ we now open our hearts in silent confession...

-Silent Personal Prayer-

Assurance of Pardon

Pastor: Forgetting what lies behind, we set our hearts and minds on the Godly things that lie ahead and let the peace of Christ fill our hearts with gratitude and hope... and we ready our hands for Kingdom work. Friends, believe the Good News of the Gospel.

People: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven. Thanks be to God!

*Gloria Patri

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost.
As it was in the beginning is now and ever shall be,
World without end. Amen. Amen.

Extending Christ's Peace

Pastor: The peace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you!

People: And also with you.

Pastor: As Jesus shared His peace with us, let us share His peace with one another.

Children's Time

*Hymn of Preparation

We Walk by Faith and Not by Sight

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Scripture Readings

Genesis 28:10-19a

Matthew 13:24-30

Sermon

"And I Did Not Know!"

Pastor Heppenstall

Text: "Surely the Lord is in this place..." Genesis 28:16

***Affirmation of Faith - The 23rd Psalm**

The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want; He makes me lie down in green pastures. He leads me beside still waters; He restores my soul. He leads me in paths of righteousness for His name's sake. Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I fear no evil; for Thou art with me; Thy rod and Thy staff, they comfort me. Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of my enemies; Thou annointest my head with oil, my cup overflows. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life; and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

Sharing Joys and Concerns and Lighting of Prayer Candles

Invitation to Prayer

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give God thanks and praise.

Pastoral Prayer and The Lord's Prayer (*Debts/debtors*)

Offering *Please place your offering in the plates at the exit doors, mail your gifts to the church, or click the WPC website 'Give' button. Thank You!*

***Doxology**

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Christ, all people here below;
Praise Holy Spirit evermore;
Praise Triune God, whom we adore. Amen.

Unison Prayer of Dedication

Holy God, with great gratitude we present our offering and ourselves. You have provided for us in abundance... let what we give help those who have little. You have given us hope in Christ... let what we give bring the same hope to others. You have given us the gift of this community of faith... let what we give be an extension of Your hospitality. For we pray in Christ our Lord. Amen.

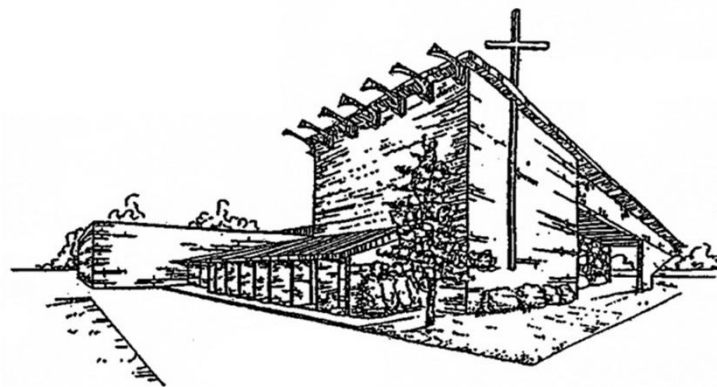
***Hymn** *God Bless Your Church with Strength!* Tune: *Diademata* (151) #418

Charge and Benediction

Go out into God's world in peace; have courage; hold on to what is good; return to no one evil for evil; strengthen the faint-hearted; support the weak; help the suffering; honor all persons; love and serve the Lord, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.

Postlude

WEBSTER
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH



*We are followers of Jesus Christ,
living and sharing the love of God
through faith and action,
welcoming all.*

550 Webster Road
Webster, New York
585-265-9700 www.websterpres.org

Interim Pastor
Rev. Phil Davis, Sr.

Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise

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Immortal, invisible, God only wise,
In light inaccessible hid from our eyes.
Most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of Days,
Almighty, victorious, Thy great name we praise.
Unresting, unhasting, and silent as light,
Nor wanting, nor wasting, Thou rulest in might.
Thy justice like mountains high soaring above
Thy clouds, which are fountains of goodness and love.
To all, life Thou givest, to both great and small,
In all life Thou livest, the true life of all.
We blossom and flourish like leaves on the tree,
Then wither and perish, but naught changeth Thee.
Thou reignest in glory, Thou rulest in light.
Thine angels adore Thee, all veiling their sight.
All praise we would render; O help us to see
'Tis only the splendor of light hideth Thee!

We Walk by Faith and Not by Sight

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We walk by faith and not by sight, no gracious words we hear
From Christ, who spoke as none e'er spoke, but we believe Him near.
We may not touch His hands and side, nor follow where He trod.
But in His promise we rejoice, and cry, "My Lord and God!"
Help then, O Lord, our unbelief, and may our faith abound
To call on You when You are near and seek where You are found.
That when our life of faith is done, in realms of clearer light,
We may behold You as You are, with full and endless sight.

God Bless Your Church with Strength!

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God, bless Your church with strength! Wherever we may be,
Upbuild Your servants as we work in common ministry.
Urge us from fledgling faith to venture and to soar
Through open skies, to sing the praise of Christ whom we adore.
God, bless Your church with life! May all our branches thrive,
Unblemished, wholesome, bearing fruit, abundantly alive.
From You, one holy vine, in freedom may we grow.
Sustain us in our mission, Lord, Your love and peace to show.
God, bless Your church with hope! Despite chaotic days,
May we in chaos shine to light a pathway through life's maze.
May justice be our aim, and kindness ours to share,
In humbleness O may we walk, assured our God is there!

MEMORY VERSE

*"As the heavens are higher than the earth,
so are my ways higher than your ways
and my thoughts than your thoughts."*

Isaiah 55:9

LECTIONARY PASSAGES

Today, July 23rd

July 30th

Old Testament	<i>Genesis 28:10-19a</i>	<i>Genesis 29:15-28</i>
Psalm	<i>Psalms 139:1-12, 23-24</i>	<i>Psalms 105:1-11, 45b</i>
New Testament	<i>Romans 8:12-25</i>	<i>Romans 8:26-39</i>
Gospel	<i>Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43</i>	<i>Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52</i>

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WEBSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

550 Webster Road
Webster, New York 14580
585-265-9700 www.websterpres.org

Interim Pastor

Rev. Phil Davis, Sr.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. **WELCOME to Webster Presbyterian Church! We are pleased that you are worshipping with us, whether in person or by live-streaming. Sunday services continue to be live-streamed. You can watch them live at 9:30 or later at your leisure using:**
Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/Websterpres/> or
YouTube <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCzM5thYxua2HQSPF6P71wA>
THIS SERVICE IS LIVESTREAMED on YouTube and Facebook. Participation in and/or observation of the service implies acknowledgement that your image may be seen on the stream at the time of the service and in the future.
2. VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL is meeting this week. Please keep all the children and staff in your prayers as they experience the excitement of this year's program "Stellar: Shine Jesus' Light."
3. OUR ANNUAL SCHOOL SUPPLY COLLECTION for needy students at Williamson Come-Unity Center and Eastern Service Workers has begun. Donations of individual sized pencils, crayons, markers, glue sticks, colored folders, scissors, rulers, index cards, spiral notebooks, tissue packs and hand sanitizer, and back packs may be placed in the "School Bus" in the lower Narthex.
4. SUMMER MISSION: Our special opportunity to help citizens in Ukraine during the war there continues. Our donations will provide medical supplies and food for those who have been badly impacted by that war. The small brown envelopes with the sunflower are in the chair racks for your donations.
5. AN INCREASE IN FOOD INSECURITY is rising in our community of Webster. Help is much appreciated to aid in keeping up with the demand. Items needed include: sugar, flour, jarred spaghetti sauce, cooking oil, **coffee, shampoo & conditioner, facial tissue, feminine products, **bar soap & body wash, and mouthwash – (** items of particular need.)
6. SUMMER BOOK READING SUGGESTIONS
 - *"We Make the Road by Walking"* is written by Brian McLaren, author, speaker, activist and theologian.
 - *"Unclobber, Rethinking Our Misuse of the Bible on Homosexuality"* by Colby Martin re-examines the six Bible passages, known as the "Clobber Passages," that stand against the full inclusion of our LGBTQIA+ siblings, as well as his own story of being fired for his own views by the church he was serving. Both books are available in the Narthex or the church office and will be discussed in the fall during the Adult Ed. offering time.